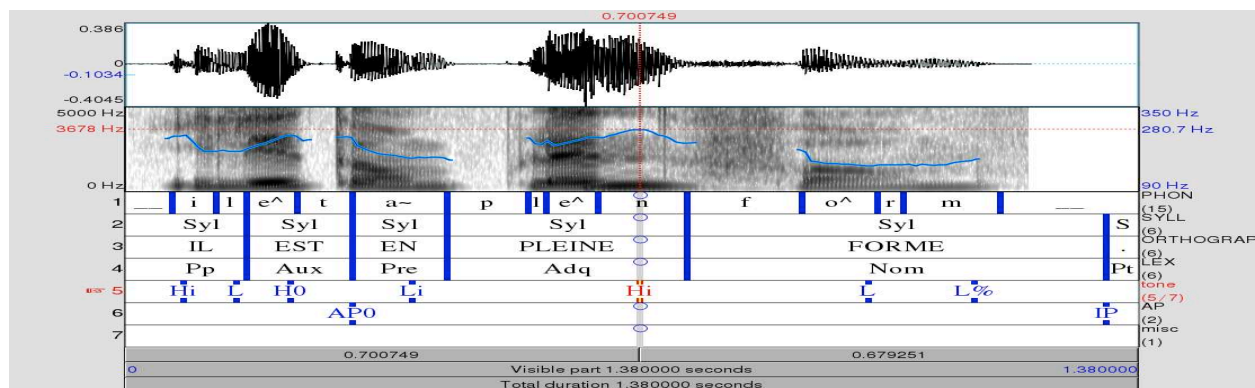




Marion says 'Alain is a marvellous musician'.

From this database (which was intonationally labeled), 14 neutral and 14 sarcastic renditions of each utterance were extracted according to prototypical prosodic features as identified in Loevenbruck et al. (submitted). Context sentences and stimulus sentences were digitized into individual sound files, ready to be cross-spliced. We hence created 28 matching pairs (7 short sentences, 7 long sentences in 2 context types, neutral and sarcastic). Stimuli were interspersed with 28 fillers and presented to 2 groups of listeners. Each group listened to each utterance in only one of the two contexts, either neutral or sarcastic. Both groups listened to an equal number of sarcastic and neutral utterances. 28 non-matching and 28 matching-pairs were evaluated by 40 native French subjects for their acceptability. The two groups judged the utterance-context pairs as being either acceptable or non-acceptable in a two-alternative forced choice procedure. They also had to rate their confidence level in interpretation using a 5-point Likert scale. Results are currently being analyzed and will be presented at the conference.



**Figure 1.** Example of a prototypical sarcastic contour.

## References

- Ackerman, B. "Young children's understanding of a speaker's intentional use of a false utterance". *Developmental Psychology*, 17: 472-480, 1981.
- Attardo, S. Eisterhold, J., Hay, J. and Poggi, I. "Multimodal markers of irony and sarcasm". *Humor: International Journal of Humor Research*, 16(2): 243-260, 2003.
- Ben Jannet, M. (2012). *La prosodie de l'ironie en français*. Unpublished M. Sc. thesis, Master de Sciences Cognitives de Grenoble.
- Bryant, G. and Fox Tree, J. "Recognizing Verbal Irony in Spontaneous Speech". *Metaphor and Symbol*, 17(2): 99-117, 2002.
- Bryant, G. and Fox Tree, J. "Is there an Ironic Tone of Voice?". *Language and Speech*, 48: 257-277, 2005.
- Cheang, H.S. and Pell, M. D. "The sound of sarcasm". *Speech Communication*, 50(5): 366-381, 2008.
- Cutler, A. "On saying what you mean without meaning what you say", in M.W. LaGaly, R.A., Fox, and A., Bruck [Eds], *Chicago Linguistic Society*, Chicago, 117-127, 1974.
- Ivanko, S.L. and Pexman, P. M. "Context Incongruity and Irony Processing". *Discourse Processes*, 35(3): 241-279, 2003.
- Ladd, D. R. (2008). *Intonational Phonology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996/2008.

Løevenbruck, H., Ben Jannet M., D'Imperio, M., Spini, M. & Champagne-Lavau, M. (*submitted*). "Prosodic cues of sarcastic speech in French: slower, higher, wider". Submitted to *Interspeech 2013*.

Rockwell, P. "Lower, slower, louder: vocal cues of sarcasm". *Journal of Psycholinguistic Research*, 29(5): 483-495, 2000.

Sharrer, L. and Christman, U. "Voice Modulations in German Ironic Speech". *Language and Speech*, 54(4): 435-465, 2011.